promote convergence of viewpoints on these issues. They also called for enhanced regional and international cooperation to combat the menace of terrorism.

(c) and (d) India's offer to host a G-15 meeting at an appropriate level in preparation for the Third WTO International Conference was welcomed by the participants at the Ninth G-15 Summit. They also endorsed India's proposal which suggested adoption of a strategic sectors approach for South-South cooperation focussing on core areas like bio-technology, information technology and infrastructure development.

Indo-Pak Talks

357. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the stand to be taken for next round of Indo-Pak talks to resolve the problem of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) India is committed to adressing the subject of Jammu & Kashmir as part of the composite dialogue process with Pakistan. Government has called upon Pakistan to end its support to and instigation of cross-border terrorism. This demand, as well as our position on J&K, will be appropriate reiterated to the Pakistan side in our discussions.

Lifting of Sanctions on MFI Loans

358. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the US of lift sanctions of MFI loans to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the US thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government's position regarding unilateral restrictive economic measures is clear. Government regards all such measures as unjustified and counter-productive and is of the view that they should be lifted. Government, however will not negotiate security issues on this basis. Government have also stated that for the successful conclusion of talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient.

(b) In partial exercise of waiver authority given by the US Congress, US Government on November 7, 1998 announced lifting of some restrictive economic measures against India. These relate to programmes of three US institutions namely the EXIM Bank, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and the Trade Development Authority (TDA). The US Government also lifted restrictions on activities of Commercial US Banks and International Military Education and Training Programme (IMET). Bilateral and multilateral programmes of assistance in basic needs areas are also continuing.

The US Government stated that it was taking the step in recognition of the progress in the dialogue.

Recently, the US did not obstruct approval of a World Bank loan for Infrastucture and power development in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Cancellation of PM's stop over at Bonn En-Route Jamaica

359. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister decided to cancel his stopover at